

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12 LS-01 RSR-01 AID-20 EB-11 /165 W

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R 101600 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3264

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USUN NEW YORK 0556

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1814

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SG, XF, XI

SUBJ: SENHOR AND MIDDLE EAST

BEGIN SUMMARY. IN PRESS CONFERENCE JUST PRIOR TO CLOSING OF OCAM SUMMIT MEETING AT PORT LOUIS, PRESIDENT SENHOR, COMMENTING ON MIDDLE

EAST ISSUES, ALTERED HIS CENTRIST POSITION SLIGHTLY IN PRO- ARAB DIRECTION, AT SAME TIME REJECTING KHADAFI THESIS AS INAPPROPRIATE TO NON- ARAB COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1. IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS SENHOR FOR FIRST TIME TOOK DIRECT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPENING OF EL FATAH OFFICE IN DAKAR, SAYING " J' AI PRIS CETTE DECISION D' ACCUEILLIR UN BUREAU DU FATAH A DAKAR."

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2. ALSO FOR FIRST TIME, SENGHOR PLACED EMPHASIS ON RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS IN ANY MID- EAST SETTLEMENT. HE TERMED THIS " SECOND PROBLEM"

IN ACHIEVING ANY VIABLE PEACE SETTLEMENT. HE ALSO CALLED FOR PARTICIPATION OF ALL ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS AS PARTIES TO ANY DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO MID- EAST SETTLEMENT.

3. " FIRST PROBLEM" IN ACHIEVING MID- EAST SETTLEMENT, AS SENGHOR HAS FREQUENTLY EMPHASIZED SINCE OAU WISEMEN PEACE INITIATIVE OF LATE 1971 UNDER HIS CHAIRMANSHIP, REMAINS ABSOLUTE NECESSITY, IN HIS VIEW, OF ISRAELI DECLARATION OF NON- ANNEXATION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. HE MADE THIS POINT AGAIN, PERHAPS A LITTLE STRONGER THAN BEFORE: " JE PENSE QUE TANT QUE L' ETAT D' ISRAEL NE FERA PAS CETTE DECLARATION DE NON- ANNEXION, DES NEGOCIATIONS NE POURRONT ETRE ENGAGEES, CAR SI J' ETAIS L' EGYPT JE N' ENTAMERAI PAS DE NEGOCIATIONS SANS CETTE DECLARATION."

4. AT SAME TIME, SENGHOR REJECTED WITH DISDAIN INTERFERENCE AND PRESSURE FROM KHADAFI, SAYING THAT KHADAFI HAS HIS THESIS " AS AN ARAB AND A MUSLIM", " AND I HAVE MINE". HE CARRIED THIS POINT FURTHER-

- IN PROCESS PUTTING DOWN KHADAFI FOR NARROWNESS OF HIS POINT OF VIEW-

- LOINTING OUT THAT HE (SENGHOR) SPOKE FOR BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRY WITH STRONG MUSLIM MAJORITY WHICH HAD TRANSCENDED QUARRELS OF RACE AND RELIGION (AND BY IMPLICATION, KHADAFI SPOKE ONLY FOR ARAB COUNTRY WHICH HAD NOT). WHILE SENGHOR DID NOT SPECIFY EXACTLY WHAT KHADAFI THESIS HE WAS REJECTING, IT WOULD SEEM THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO DEMAND THAT ALL AFRICAN STATES BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL NOW.

5. IN SUM, SENGHOR MAINTAINED HIS CENTRIST POSITION, MOVING SLIGHTLY IN A PRO ARAB DIRECTION, NO DOUBT TO DEGREE THAT EVENTS HAVE CAUSED CENTER, AS HE PERCEIVES IT, TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION. NEVERTHELESS, SENGHOR IS NOT UNTOUCHED BY PRESSURES AND ENTICEMENTS FROM ARAB STATES. SENEGALESE DELEGATION, WHICH HAS BEEN IN JIDDAH FOR SOME WEEKS AND WAS JOINED BY MINISTER OF PLAN AND COOPERATION OUSMANE SECK ON MAY 4, IS NEGOTIATING VARIOUS FORMS OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM SAUDI GOVERNMENT AS FOLLOW UP TO KING FAISAL' S VISIT TO SENEGAL LAST FALL. SUCH ASSISTANCE COULD TAKE FORM OF EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF, OF WHICH WE NOTE THAT SAG RECENTLY OFFERED NIGER ONE MILLION DOLLARS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHY SAUDI ASSISTANCE IS TAKING SO LONG TO NEGOTIATE.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973DAKAR01814
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730540/aaaailvw.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <03-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980108
Subject: SENGHOR AND MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PFOR, SG, XF, XI
To: ABIDJAN
ADDIS ABABA
AF
BAMAKO
CAIRO
JIDDA
NOUAKCHOTT

PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005